

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 have been canceled. New claims 20-22 have been added.

Specification

The specification has been amended at the end of the first full paragraph on page 8 to describe the end wall 52a as a disc member as shown in Fig. 1 and Figs. 4(a) and 4(b). Moreover, disc member 52a is further described in the portion of the specification relating to Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) on page 9, lines 13-23.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 and § 103

Claims 12, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Shekleton et al. USP 5,321,950. These claims also stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sion et al. USP 5,660,039.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shekleton et al. in view of Iwai et al. USP 5,339,635.

Claims 12 - 15 have been canceled and replaced by new claims 20-22. For the reasons set forth hereafter, it is submitted that new claims 20-22 are patentable.

Patentability of the Claims

New independent claim has been added which now defines Applicant's gas turbine combustor as comprising a combustion chamber supplied with fuel and air and first and second fuel supply systems. A first group of fuel nozzles ^{is} as provided ✓ for jetting fuel from the first fuel supply system and a second group of fuel nozzles

provided for jetting fuel from the second fuel system. A disc member is provided forwardly of the first and second groups of fuel nozzles in a fuel jetting direction, with the disc member having air holes corresponding to the fuel nozzles. The first and second groups of fuel nozzles and the disc member are arranged so that annular air flows are formed around the fuel jet flows and fuel paths of the air holes.

Claim 21 further defines the first and second fuel supply systems as having individually controllable control valves for controlling the fuel flow rate. Claim 22 defines the first group of fuel nozzles as being arranged around a central axis of the disc member and the second group of nozzles as being arranged around an outer periphery of the first group of fuel nozzles.

The cited Shekleton et al. Sion et al. and Iwai et al. references, taken either alone or in combination, do not anticipate or render obvious Applicants invention as now claimed.

Shekleton et al. does not disclose a disc member as now defined in the claims and also does not disclose a first group of nozzles arranged around a central axis of the disc member and a second group of fuel nozzles arranged at an outer periphery of the first group of fuel nozzles.

Sion et al., does not disclose at least two fuel supply systems. While Iwai et al. does disclose a plurality of fuel supply systems in Fig. 1, it does not a disc member as now defined in the claims.

Accordingly, it is submitted that new claims 20-22 are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney Docket No. NIP-266-04).

Respectfully submitted,



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